When You Put Out Love, You'll Get Love Back: Lunella's Visit to Hansberry Heights

Posted originally on the Archive of Our Own at https://archiveofourown.org/works/56595406.

Rating:	General Audiences
Archive Warning:	No Archive Warnings Apply
Category:	F/F
Fandoms:	Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur (Cartoon 2023), Karma's World (Cartoon)
Relationships:	Casey Calderon & Lunella Lafayette, Karma Grant & Alex “Switch” Stein
Characters:	Karma Grant, Alex "Switch" Stein, Chef Crowley (Karma's World), Lunella Lafayette, Casey Calderon
Additional Tags:	Black Character(s), Romance Between Black Characters, Crack Relationships, Crack Crossover, Crossovers & Fandom Fusions, Crossover, Hurt/Comfort, Superheroes, First ever Karma's World fic!, Devil Dinosaur mentioned, The Author Regrets Nothing, Manhattan, New York City, COVID-19 Pandemic, Unrequited Love, Developing Friendships, some of this fic is silly, Queer Themes, Bechdel Test Pass, Podfic Welcome
Language:	English
Stats:	Published: 2024-06-12 Words: 1,640 Chapters: 1/1

When You Put Out Love, You'll Get Love Back: Lunella's Visit to Hansberry Heights

by lefemmerouge2

Summary

One day, Karma meets a girl, only a few years older than her, with a unique style at a local diner in her neighborhood, who acts very generous to the chef. She is taken by her. When she tries to track down this cool kid, she can't find her, until she comes across Moon Girl, a superhero from the Lower East Side...

Notes

Some time ago, I finished all of the episodes of Karma's World and was disappointed to see that there weren't any fics for the series. I also started watching Moon Girl and I know that Moon Girl is primarily set in Manhattan's Lower East Side (LES). I'm guessing that Hansberry Heights, the fictional neighborhood in Karma's World, is also in New York, and it will be as such in this fic. Furthermore, after learning that Karma's voice actor, Asiahn Bryant, has been out as a lesbian since 2019, it furthered my motivation to write this fic. My hope is that this fic will open the door to others writing Karma's World fics, and connect to those in the Moon Girl fandom who see queer themes or have related headcanons. Watching Karma's World would help with understanding some of this fic, but not everything. That series is, fair warning, a 3-D, computer-animated series, but it's still an enjoyable series, nonetheless. I originally planned to include this in the "Be The First!" competition, but after reading the rules for crossovers, I abandoned that idea, and decided to continue with this crossover regardless. Today is the Pulse Night of Remembrance, which remembers the horrific mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida on June 12, 2016. Although this fic has *nothing* to do with that shooting, I wanted to publish it today as a positive to counter that horrific event and bring forward some positivity.

Comments are welcome and appreciated.

Update on 12/14/24: This fic has been cross-posted on Squidge World. I made some minor revisions (as this fic was in wonderful shape) and reposted the revised version here.

Update on 5/7/26: An updated/revised/improved fic has been posted on Squidge World, expanding the text to 2,203 words, adding 563 words, or about 34.3% percent more, especially adding text about Karma and Lunella, but also a little more to perspective of Lunella's friend, Casey, along with changing the original title ("When You Put Out Love, You'll Get Love Back: Lunella's Visit to Hansberry Heights") to the current title, the

summary, and end note, plus fixing some issues I missed in the original fic. I hope you all check it out! That version was also posted on Internet Archive.

See the end of the work for more notes

"Karma! Karma!" the crowd echoes. An 11-year-old girl, from the close-knit neighborhood of Hansberry Heights, with a dark brown curly, and thick, afro, steps atop a stage. She begins speaking in a microphone. She starts her rap song:

"My name's Karma / when it comes to friends, they say I'm the greatest! / Let me tell a story about how my heart was beating faster than before / I started questioning who I was / and was feeling it in my core / Now do I try to hide a part of myself / or do I say the truth? / Which path do I choose? / I don't wanna be uncouth!"

The rap song ends. Karma turns toward the camera. She begins speaking normally, without any background music, or sick beats. *Have you ever felt like you had to hide a part of yourself from your family and friends?* The pages of her diary begin fluttering. Karma's voice continues. *Stick around. I'mma show you what went down!*

Karma walked with her friend, a White girl named Alex "Switch" Stein, to the local restaurant, the Duet Diner. They usually got purple scones, one of the specialties of the diner's owner, Chef Scott Crowley. As they entered the store, he greeted them happily. "It's nice to see you all again! Are you all getting the usual?" Karma and Switch nodded.

They had hoped that Winston, their talented videographer friend, would be there. But he *had* to help at local record shop his mom owned.

"Hey, Switch," Karma began, "how's that violin beat box class going?"

Switch sighed and shook her head. It hadn't been going as well as she had hoped.

"I kinda wish the community center was still here. Everything seems so disparate without it." She then added, "thanks to this virus, *no one* wants to come to my classes in person anymore."

Karma nodded. She knew what Switch was talking about. She had attempted to save the center, with the help of the community. They had *almost* done so, that is until the conniving Cece entered the scene, wanting to steal the spotlight only for herself, turning off the power to the entire building, preventing them from reaching their financial goal.

"I know what you mean, Switch, and I…" She stopped in mid-sentence when she heard a voice which made her ears perk up. She turned her head and saw *her*. A short, slender, brown-skinned girl, whose hair was tied up in large bushy, pom-poms, one on each side, was at the counter. "Hi, I'm *new here*. I heard you had legendary purple scones here."

Chef Crowley was excited. He smiled back. "Yeah, we sure do, miss. How many do you want?"

Through her large, and round, violet glasses she stared at him. She began thinking about how to answer his question. Almost a little nervously, she sheepishly *said*, "I'll have 2 dozen."

He was puzzled. *What would she be doing with all these scones?* He didn't question. Business was business. Standing at the cash register, he entered the total. "That will be

$15.95." She pulled out her wallet, with its colors a mix of pink and blue, and took out a crisp $20 dollar bill. She handed it to the chef. He quickly entered "20.00" into the register, it made a sound (cha-ching!) and handed her the scones.

After he gave her the change, she shook her head. "Keep the change. You'll need it a lot more than me."

She left the store, speeding away in her roller stakes, and grinning. Karma was flabbergasted. *Who was this girl? And why had she been so generous?*

She had to know more. The girl's style had been unique, to say the least. She wore a black t-shirt, long undersleeves, pink skirt, long denim jeans, and tennis shoes. Karma had never seen anyone like her. Almost instinctively, Karma exclaimed, "that girl was…so COOL!" Switch shrugged. She wasn't that impressed. Weirdness permeated Hansberry Heights. *Why was this one girl different?* She didn't get it. She liked being around Karma, and around Winston. But, she wasn't directly drawn toward anyone, not romantically, at least.

While they continued to chow down on their scones, Karma started fidgeting. She couldn't stop herself. Switch had never seen her friend act like this before. She seemed a bit different from how she *usually* acted. It appeared that she was excited. Pulling Switch's hand, she ran out of the diner. "We have to catch up with her!" she exclaimed. While she didn't care much about this girl, she went along with it. It was the least she could do to support her friend.

Karma ran out of the store, while she held onto Switch's hand. She shouted "I'll be back, Mr. Crowley, this'll only take a second!" He nodded. Like Switch, he didn't know why Karma was being like this. At the same time, he knew she was a good customer who had brought him so much business. So, if she didn't pay this one time, it wouldn't matter.

Once outside, she searched around every nook and cranny, but could find no one resembling the person who came into the Duet Diner. She heard a familiar voice. *Was this her?* A girl wearing a black spandex suit covered a yellow, and cyan, vest, and shorts stood in front of her. The girl's chest was emblazoned with a small crescent moon.

She wore cyan glasses with red lenses. These glasses changed based on how the girl inside felt. To top this off, she had large black skating boots with yellow laces, yellow and cyan helmet, elbow pads, and knee pads, along with red gloves.

Karma was impressed by all of this, and the girl's cyan backpack. Little did she know, but the backpack could... transform into a jetpack!

"Are you the same as the girl inside the diner?" Karma asked innocently. The girl laughed. She wouldn't be revealing her secret identity, especially to someone she just met.

"No…no...no...That's uh, Lunella Lafayette...she's uh, my friend...I'm Moon Girl, the hero of the LES!"

Karma looked downcast. She had *hoped* she could make a connection.

Lunella recognized Karma's uneasiness. She couldn't leave Karma like this. She had to make her feel better without revealing that she was actually Moon Girl.

Was it even true that when you put out love, you get love back? Karma wasn't sure. Usually in situations like this she would be upbeat, but she couldn't feel that way, not this time.

Out of nowhere, Moon Girl disappeared in a cloud of smoke, which filled the alleyway. Luckily for her, this time, Devil wasn't with her, so she could make a rapid getaway. In no time at all, almost like it was magic, Lunella appeared on the nearby sidewalk. She had quickly stuffed her disguise in her backpack. She hoped she didn't have to open her backpack or anything, so she tried to come up with *excuses* why she didn't need to.

"You're the girl from the diner!" Karma exclaimed. She *knew* she'd see her again.

"You know that Moon Girl person?… she said she was your friend."

This was a tough subject. She tried to pass it off and move on. She began laughing so infectiously that you could even feel happy when hearing it. Her large, round violet glasses almost fell off her face from all the laughing.

"She's my friend...but she's *everyone's* friend. She's just a nice person, that's all." She hoped this would stop her questioning, and *somehow* it did. "I'm Lunella. Nice to meet you."

Karma was a little nervous. She knew that Lunella wouldn't be there for long and might be returning to her neighborhood. She tried her best to ask the question. "I'm Karma, by the way. Can I...ask for your...uh…"

She usually didn't have this much trouble. Luckily her friend Switch was there. She knew what Karma was trying to ask. "She's trying to ask for your number...she's just kinda nervous because she thinks you're mega-cool."

While Karma would have chastised her, she decided not to, this time. Switch would always be there for her, *no matter what.*

"Sure!" Lunella said, jubilantly. Not many people asked for her number, even those her age, since she mostly did her own thing, although she had some friends at school.

After they exchanged numbers, Lunella walked her own way, back to the LES. Switch and Karma walked the opposite direction. She declared to her friend Switch, "see, you'll get love back after you put out love! That phrase is rings true!"

Some time later, Lunella returned from Hansberry Heights, back to her home. She crashed on the sofa in her lair underneath her house. It still remained hidden. She hadn't told her parents about her secret identity yet, although she planned to possibly do so, someday. Her friends Casey "Case" Calderon and Devil Dinosaur were watching one of their favorite movies and chowing down on on bags of popcorn.

"Hey Case, I had...an interesting experience today...this eleven year-old girl in Hansberry Heights asked me for my number...and well, I gave it to her."

Case almost spit out her popcorn. *Who was this go-getter?* She started to get a little jealous. These feelings *intensified* after she saw Karma's photo. On the other hand, she was glad that Lunella was making friends.

She tried to be positive. "That's great, Lu! Let's both visit Hansberry Heights some time!"

Lunella was glad to hear that Casey was being so supportive. "Yeah, let’s make it a date!" she exclaimed. Casey didn't read *anything* into that comment, only seeing Lunella as a friend. They were good friends, and friends did stuff like this, right? You didn't have to be in a relationship or anything. And she didn't want something like that right now.

End Notes

The title of this fic is an adaptation of what Karma's dad, Conrad, told her in the first episode when explaining her name to her. He said: "it's like a boomerang. When you put out love, you'll get love back." I used the page for "Lunella" on the Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur Wiki to help with details. Cece is one of the most awful characters ever and it's so amazing that she is voiced by Keke Palmer, the same person who voices Maya in the new Proud Family adaptation. It is also interesting that the voice actress for Switch, Aria Capria, calls herself a "follower of Jesus," yet has some close pictures with some lady friends on her Instagram. Perhaps not a contradiction, but intriguing... nonetheless. This show is Capria's first time voicing a person rather than a creature. Also, of note is the fact that apart from Palmer, who has said she doesn't want to define her sexuality with labels, Karan Soni, who voices Rishi Singal, is gay. This story was primarily written before the most recent episodes of Moon Girl aired. As such, it would probably would take place sometime after season 1. For the purpose of this story, I'm going to say that Karma is 11, meaning that Lunella would only be two years older. In addition, Karma would have certainly aged from her original age (ten) at the beginning of Karma's World.

Sadly, on Apr. 17, after some back-and-forth, the admin of Sunset permanently suspended my account (and removed ALL 35 of my fics, including this one) for mishandling interactions with certain users *even after* I apologized to said users and removed certain passages of two fics. As such, I would **strongly** recommend against *anyone* joining that site, or Superlove, as both admins (Melo/Kat for Superlove, Agnes for Sunset) are friends with each other. Those admins are very particular and not in a good way. I find the whole circumstance deeply unfortunate.

Works inspired by this one

To Be Moon Girl or Not: That is the Question by lefemmerouge2

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